# Bakewell Class Newsletter

Autumn 2 – November 2026

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inspire nurture empower

## Welcome Back & Updates

Welcome back after half term! For those who haven't met me yet, I'm Lucy, Bakewell's class teacher, and I am really looking forward to this half term where we will be sharing lots of fun, exciting learning experiences together. We have a very exciting half term ahead, full of lots of lovely activities and celebrations! With Diwali coming up and Christmas just around the corner, there will be plenty of opportunities for fun, creativity and learning.
Our topic this half term is Arctic Lands, which is a wonderful topic for the winter months. We will be exploring the fascinating world of the Arctic, discovering its amazing animals, icy landscapes and how people live in such a cold environment.

I'm really looking forward to a fantastic half term filled with learning, laughter and lots of special memories!

If you do have any questions or key information to pass on, please don't hesitate to contact me on lucy.finnegan@ivy.set.org

## Key Concepts and Skills



Our learning theme this half term is Arctic Lands, where we will be exploring the fascinating world of the Arctic! The children will discover the different animals that live in these icy environments, explore what the weather is like and learn about the people who live in some of the coldest places on Earth.
Through our cognitive learning, the children will be developing their thinking, problem-solving and understanding of the world around them. Linked to our Arctic Lands topic, we will be exploring different animals, matching and sorting objects, recognising similarities and differences, and investigating ice and snow.

We will be using symbols and Makaton signs alongside spoken language to support understanding and help the children express their wants, needs, thoughts and feelings.

We will be getting creative with lots of exciting, hands-on activities, exploring ice and snow, and discovering how animals survive in such chilly conditions. This is a lovely topic for the winter months, and we are really looking forward to seeing where our learning takes us!

## Reminders / additional information







If it is appropriate for your child to have snack, there will be some available. Please use the Arbor app to make donations towards this if you choose to do so. We will have a range of snack options in class including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.

This half term our hydro day is **Tuesday/Wednesday** but please send in your child's kit at the beginning of the week as we may take them in whenever there is a space. Please include a costume/trunks, 2 towels and some body wash/shampoo.



**Please ensure your child has at least one set of spare clothes in school at all times. Thank you.**

**Please could you send in a named tube of toothpaste for your child to use at school. We will keep this safely in class for our toothbrushing sessions.**



# Home Learning Curriculum Ideas

## Communication & Interaction

Communication is the most important skill we can develop both at home and in school! The Makaton signs shown below make a great start to help build a sense of two-way communication along with signs/ symbols and objects of reference.

Turn taking games are a key target for most of our pupils in Bakewell so this would also help to build awareness of interactions with others, and exchange.

If you would like symbols for home, please email me and we can provide these.

## Reading

Reading is an important part of our daily school life. Our children have the opportunity to visit and enjoy our school library every week, alongside having access to a wide range of books throughout the day.

We also make reading accessible and enjoyable in different ways, with audiobooks playing on the board during lunchtime each day. We aim to nurture a love of stories, develop language and communication skills, and ensure every child can enjoy the magic of books in a way that works for them.

## Life Skills

Life skills are such an important part of learning in Bakewell, and this half term we will be introducing weekly independence sessions to help the children develop valuable skills that they can use in everyday life.

During these sessions, we will be practicing everyday self-care routines such as hand washing, face washing and brushing our teeth. We will also be developing practical household skills, including learning how to load the washing machine and peg out washing!



## Expressive Arts

Expressive Arts offers our students a wonderful opportunity to explore their creativity, express themselves and communicate in ways that feel comfortable to them. Through art, music, movement and imaginative activities, they can build confidence, develop emotional awareness and enjoy connecting with others in a relaxed, supportive and inclusive environment.

## Makaton signing




